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DUVAL COUNTY

FLORIDA.

Showing its Statistics, Resources, Lands,
Products, Climate and
Population.

WITH A CORRECT MAP.

PUBLISHED BY
THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

LAND OFFICE

(LICENSED)

OF

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Jacksonville, Florida.

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DUVAL COUNTY

FLORIDA.

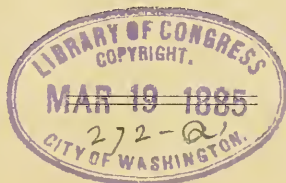
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JACKSONVILLE, FLA.:

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DUVAL COUNTY.

Duval County, so called after the second territorial Governor of Florida, is situated in the northeastern portion of the State, and is the second of the Atlantic tier of counties. It is bounded on the north by Nassau County, on the east by the Atlantic, a distance of thirty-five miles; on the south by Clay and St. Johns counties, and on the west by Baker County. Its area is 900 square miles, or 576,000 acres.

It has nearly quadrupled its population within the last twenty years, which numbered in 1850, 5,074, and in 1880, 19,431, the last figures being probably too small by 10,000. The last census presents the following statistics of this county. Acres of school land unsold, 4,841; children of school age, 5,443; white 2,293, colored 3,150; school attendance 2,403; acres of improved land, 18,787; horses and mules 864, cattle 1,887, sheep 347, swine 2,410.

Assessed value of property, \$4,673,981. The assessment of 1884 fixed the amount of taxable property at 6,166,550, showing a most gratifying increase.

The State taxes of 1883 reached \$31,747; and those of the county, \$61,249.40, upon a basis of fifty per cent. of their market value.

According to race, there were 8,580 whites and 10,850 negroes. The St. Johns River passes directly through this county and empties into the Atlantic near the northeastern corner. The traffic on this river is shown in the following memorial to Congress, prepared by a committee of citizens:

Your memorialists, a committee appointed on behalf of the people of Florida, respectfully ask your consideration of the following facts, showing the necessity for the continuance of the improvement of the entrance to the St. Johns River.

The values of vessels and cargoes arriving at and departing from the port of Jacksonville in 1882, amounted to \$38,270,000. Upon this amount the increased insurance over that of neighboring ports caused by the risks of commerce crossing the Bar was three-fourths per cent. or \$287,025. The increased freight charges averaged 50 cents per ton or \$175,000. The loss by delays at the Bar, caused by its condition, amounted to 960 days or \$36,600, and the losses on the Bar to \$18,500, making an annual burden on the commerce of Jacksonville, which the completion of the improvement of the Bar would save, of \$514,125.

The steamboat tonnage, inland and local, upon the St. Johns river, now actively and prosperously engaged in its freight and passage traffic, consists of 74 steamboats of 8,168 tons (registered) representing a value of \$2,042,000. This is a greater steamboat tonnage than there was, by the last census reports, of ocean and inland in any State south of Maryland on the Atlantic coast, with the exception of Georgia, and

more, as appears by same reports, than was then in service for purely local inland traffic upon any river on the Atlantic coast south of the Hudson. It represents an employed tonnage by trips both ways of over 35,000 tons weekly, and is an increase since 1880 of 128 per cent.

The freights brought to Jacksonville from Atlantic Coast States by railroads for consumption and distribution during 1882, amounted to 53,305 tons of an estimated value of \$6,663,100, an increase of 84 per cent. over 1880. The outward bound freights from the same city brought down the St. Johns river and by railroad through this State for shipment to coast line States amounted to 42,000 tons or \$5,081,415 value. The number of passengers brought into Florida by railroad from coast line States during the same year was 27,735, and carried outward to similar points 23,184, an increase over 1880 of 258 per cent., none of which freight or travel crossed the St. Johns Bar.

In the present condition of the St. Johns Bar there can be no foreign commerce over it. With over 55,000,000 feet of sawed lumber leaving during the year the shipments are restricted to coastwise ports; while cotton and other products must leave by rail lines to seek shipments abroad from ports in other States.

In the counties bordering the St. Johns river, viz: Duval, St. Johns, Clay, Putnam, Volusia, Marion and Orange, the assessed value of property has increased 89 per cent. and the acreage under cultivation 35 per cent. since 1880. In the same counties the population has increased over 22 per cent. during the last two years.

The railroad lines tributary to the St. Johns river, lying within the State of Florida, have 865 miles in operation, and 122 miles under construction. They have increased 185 per cent. since 1880.

The U. S. Land Office in Gainesville shows the following sales at private entry (excluding commuted homestead and other entries,) 1880, 6,448.32 acres; 1881, 37,278.28 acres; 1882, 140,163.45; 1883, 230,658.05 acres.

Your memorialists would direct your attention to the fact that the St. Johns river is one of the longest and widest upon the Atlantic coast in the United States. For 115 miles from its entrance, the width is from one to seven miles. It is navigable for large steamers 230 miles, and for a smaller class 435 miles; has 450 miles water tributaries, navigable for steamboats, and 865 miles of railroad feeders already in operation.

The improvement by the jetties already begun, as the report of Gen. Gillmore, the engineer in charge shows, is an assured success. The need of a harbor of refuge and a naval depot in the St. Johns river, has been recognized and the improvement deemed one of national as well as local importance.

For these reasons your memorialists pray that a liberal appropriation be recommended for the immediate continuance and completion of the improvements already begun.

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

ST. JOHNS BAR COMMERCE.

	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.
Estimated values of vessels and cargoes arriving and departing.....	\$33,696,101	\$38,176,459	\$38,270,000	no rep't
Upon this amount the increased insurance over that of neighboring ports caused by the risks of this Bar was $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., or.....	252,720	286,223	287,025	"
The increased freight charges, from same cause, 50 cents per ton, or.....	161,696	174,622	175,000	"
The loss by delays, caused by bad condition of Bar, 960 days.....	no rep't	no rep't	33,600	"
The loss of vessels on the Bar.....	20,000		18,500	"
The yearly loss to commerce by not having a good harbor of refuge in this river, estimated by the Underwriters' Agent, is				\$100,000
Annual burden on the commerce of Jacksonville, which the completion of the Improvement of the Bar would save	434,416	460,945	514,125	
Feet of sawed lumber shipped.....	44,719,255	58,837,451	68,041,548	48,510,498

ST. JOHNS RIVER COMMERCE.*

No. steamboats engaged, pas. & freight				74
Tonnage " " " "				8,168
Estimated value				\$2,042,000

TRIBUTARY TO ST. JOHNS RIVER COMMERCE.†

From coast States to Jacksonville for consumption and distribution—tons	28,972	36,005	53,305	no rep't
To coast States from Jacksonville "	13,958	17,662	23,676	"
Do. do. do., crates fruits and vegetables	217,685	215,617	316,800	"
Do. do. do., bales cotton	26,946	37,440	27,477	"
From do. to do., No. of passengers.....	7,744	14,214	27,735	"
To do. from do., " " " "	6,488	11,455	23,184	"
Estimated value inward freights.....	no rep't	no rep't	\$6,663,100	"
" " outward " " " "	"	"	5,081,415	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

The assessed value of property in the counties of Duval, St. Johns, Clay, Putnam, Volusia, Marion and Orange, which border on the river, has increased since 1880.....				89 per ct.
Acreage under cultivation in same counties has increased since 1880.....				35 per ct.
Population in same counties has increased since 1881.....				22 per ct.
Number miles railroads in operation, tributary to St. Johns River commerce	303		446	865
Number acres land sold at U. S. Land Office at Gainesville, excluding commuted homesteads and other entries	6,448.32	37,278.28	140,163.45	320,658.05

* This is a greater steamboat tonnage than there was by the last census report, of Ocean and Inland, in any Atlantic State south of Maryland except Georgia, and more than is engaged in purely inland local traffic upon any river south of the Hudson. It represents an increase since 1880 of 128 per cent., and by trips both ways a weekly tonnage employed of over 35,000 tons.

† The St. Johns River for 115 miles is from one to seven miles in width, is navigable for large steamers 230 miles and for a smaller class 335 miles, has 450 miles of navigable water and 865 miles railroad tributaries, with 122 miles under construction, being an increase of 185 per cent. since 1880.

Such figures as the above should give emphasis to the necessity for the immediate and permanent improvement of the mouth of the river. The prospects are good for continued appropriations of money to carry on the work already commenced, and which may produce favorable results. The county is traversed by bold creeks, which would be considered rivers elsewhere, down which are floated rafts of logs for the various saw-mills. These streams afford excellent sites for building purposes, and many of the most eligible locations are now occupied by handsome residences. The entire county may be said to be well watered.

Marl, muck and phosphatic deposits are abundant and composted with other articles furnish cheap and abundant fertilizers. Along the salt creeks and marshes toward the mouth of the river are found large beds of oyster and other shells, which are easily converted into lime, and, combined with other ingredients, make good fertilizers.

The usual grades of land are found in this county, susceptible of raising remunerative and varied crops. Many semi-tropical fruits are profitably raised, and the oranges of Duval rank high in the markets. Figs, peaches, pears and strawberries handsomely repay the cost of cultivation. Market gardening is largely pursued and employs much labor and capital. The home demand for such products is large, and the transportation facilities allow a ready outlet for the surplus in many directions. Corn, cotton, sugar-cane, sweet potatoes and peas constitute the principal field crops. Previous to the war there were several large plantations in this county, and a considerable amount of sea-island cotton was produced. Very little attention is now given to the cultivation of this valuable staple, the agricultural community finding more profit in raising other products.

State and Government lands are yet to be purchased at the usual prices, and much of this land is of excellent quality, which will well repay the labor of cultivation. The several lines of railroads, with the river and numerous creeks afford easy access to all portions of the county and prompt and cheap transportation for its products. In this respect Duval county enjoys great advantages. Producers of fruit and vegetables can always dispose of these articles in Jacksonville, or, if they prefer, can send them direct by a dozen routes to Northern markets.

In the matter of selecting a market, they also possess unusual facilities. Shippers in Jacksonville are in continual receipt of advices from points elsewhere, and are able to indicate readily the best markets for the time being. This enables them to get their produce gathered and forwarded in large or small quantities, and to send it off in the best and freshest condition. The proximity to market and convenience of transportation saves the carriage and handling required by shipments from more distant localities. These advantages are so obvious and important that they must be appreciated at once.

Several bodies of hammock land exist, showing all the characteristics of that quality of soil. Pine lands constitute the greater portion of the area of this county and show the usual varieties. Black jack ridges are frequent and are valued as healthy locations for residences.

It is unfortunate that no geological survey of the State has ever been made, to show the relation and constitution of the underlying as well as the superficial strata of the soil of this county. As far as is known, the light sandy soil is from two to one hundred feet above tide water, showing clay of medium purity within six feet of the surface, which frequently crops out on the surface on slopes, underlying which is a stratum of disintegrated shell rock at the depth of thirty or forty feet below the surface, then blue clay. This rock is of tertiary formation. On the coast the alluvial soil is intermixed with disintegrated sea-shells in various stages of decomposition. The clay at the surface has been found to make excellent bricks, which are largely used all over the county and distributed into the interior of the State. Rough pottery has also been attempted on a small scale. No metallic ores have as yet been discovered. Calcareous marl abounds in several localities, and the general soil is amply supplied with that important constituent, lime.

Many of the swamp and overflowed lands are readily susceptible of drainage, and when thus reclaimed will be found very valuable for sugar-cane and vegetables. Rice can be largely, easily and profitably raised, and this crop is entitled to more attention than it has received. It is a very certain crop in this county, and if generally cultivated would induce the construction of mills to prepare the grain for market. From twenty-five to forty bushels of this valuable cereal can be raised to the acre. The forage from the plant is very nutritious and furnishes excellent material for paper and food for cattle.

Arrow-root, cassava, Irish and sweet potatoes, tanyahs, cucumbers, egg-plants, okra, tomatoes, cushaws, melons, radishes, peas, parsnips, peppers, etc., grow very well, and large quantities are exported to markets outside of the State. The advantages for truck raising are great. The land is easily cultivated, home manures are abundant, and foreign fertilizers can be easily obtained, and both the climate and accessibility to markets will always render this industry attractive. These products can be put on the markets several weeks in advance of those raised in Georgia and South Carolina, and in this respect Florida can have no competition. Vegetables can be shipped from this county with the morning dew upon their leaves, and reach their destination unimpaired and fresh.

Around the city of Jacksonville for several miles the country is dotted by small farms that show the good effects of intensive farming and high cultivation. *Excellent wild lands for such purposes can be had from private owners at prices varying from five to fifty dollars per acre, according to locality—the larger price being paid for river fronts and suburban lots.

In the way of climate, Duval County appeals with confidence to the throngs of visitors who annually seek a winter residence therein. Their testimonials are the best, as they are the result of experience. The fact that they return from season to season, with a constant accession to their number, indicates their appreciation. The visitors, who are types of the intelligence, refinement and wealth of their several States, gratefully testify to the mildness and salubrity of the winter climate. The former well-known Treasurer of the United States, Gen. F. E. Spinner, a resident of Jacksonville, a close and accurate observer, whose remarkable signature has ornamented thousands of millions of dollars of the National Currency, writes as follows:

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., March 31, 1880.

HON. SETH FRENCH, Commissioner, etc.:

Dear Sir—As requested by you, I have the honor to make the following statement in regard to the temperature on the bluff, in the village of Brooklyn, a suburb of the city of Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida, as ascertained by me, with the aid of a registering thermometer, for the year commencing with April 1, 1879, and closing with March 31, 1880. The year is thus constituted, because it is the only consecutive time in which I have remained in Florida a whole year round.

Now I desire to say, right here, that I was more comfortable, in regard to excessive heat, than in any summer spent in Washington, D.C., or at my home in Mohawk, in New York. The truth is, it is hotter in the long days of July and August, in Quebec, in Lower Canada, than it is here. Then, too, we have breezes either from the Gulf of Mexico on the west or from the Atlantic Ocean on the east. These, with the trade winds, have a cooling influence upon the atmosphere.

If the following tables show a less degree of heat than the statements of the Signal Corps, it will be due to the fact that their thermometer is located in the central part of Jacksonville, where it must be more or less affected by reflections from the streets and houses, while mine is placed in the country where no such causes can influence it.

Very respectfully, yours,

F. E. SPINNER.

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF TEMPERATURE FOR THE YEAR, AS ABOVE.

Mean maximum for April.....	73.53	Mean maximum for Oct.	76.00
" minimum "	58.00	" minimum "	68.00
" average "	65.76	" average "	72.00
" maximum for May.....	78.00	" maximum for Nov.....	71.60
" minimum "	66.00	" minimum "	55.00
" average "	72.00	" average "	63.30
" maximum for June.....	82.30	" maximum for Dec.....	71.00
" minimum "	70.70	" minimum "	54.00
" average "	76.50	" average "	62.50
" maximum for July	87.90	" maximum for Jan. 1880.....	69.10
" minimum "	74.60	" minimum "	54.60
" average "	81.25	" average "	61.85
" maximum for Aug.....	84.20	" maximum for Feb.....	67.00
" minimum "	74.40	" minimum "	53.00
" average "	79.30	" average "	60.00
" maximum for Sept.....	78.90	" maximum for M'ch.....	74.00
" minimum "	69.80	" minimum "	60.30
" average "	74.35	" average "	67.15

STATEMENT OF TEMPERATURE BY SEASONS.

SPRING.	Mean maximum.....	75.18	AUTUMN.	Mean maximum.....	75.56
	“ minimum.....	61.60		“ minimum.....	64.30
	“ average.....	68.30		“ average.....	69.50
SUMMER.	Mean maximum.....	84.80	WINTER.	Mean maximum.....	69.00
	“ minimum.....	73.27		“ minimum.....	64.90
	“ average.....	79.00		“ average.....	61.45

STATEMENT OF TEMPERATURE FOR THE YEAR.

Mean maximum, 76.10; mean minimum, 63.20; mean average for 366 days, 69.65. Highest temperature, July 11th, 99°. The mercury reached 90° but eleven times, and fell below 40° but seven times during the year. Lowest temperature, Nov. 21st, 33°.

Sun-strokes do not occur in this climate. Pleasant breezes, laden with moisture from the Atlantic or Gulf, temper the sun's rays and render the hottest days in summer endurable. At night one can be sure of a refreshing sleep, and toward morning it is not uncommon, even during the dog-days, to require bed clothing.

The general health of the community is very satisfactory. The principal diseases, bilious and intermittent fevers, are readily controlled, and very frequently do not require medical assistance. It is only necessary to observe the ordinary laws of hygiene to be assured of average good health. Much of the mortality in the county occurs among the invalids who sojourn here during the winter and spring. Many come too late, and reach us after the maladies with which they are afflicted have destroyed their vitality. Within the last thirty years there have been two epidemics of yellow-fever in Jacksonville, both confined to the city, and not extending to the rural districts.

The sanitary interests of the county are directed by a Board of Health, composed of intelligent gentlemen, who exercise close scrutiny over the public health. Nowhere in the State or elsewhere can there be found a more learned, skillful and experienced medical faculty than that of Duval County.

POST-OFFICES IN THIS COUNTY.

Baldwin,
Beaulere,
Fort George,
Fulton,
Jacksonville,

Mandarin,
Maxville,
Mayport,
New Berlin,
Oklahoma,

Register,
St. Nicholas,
Tisonia,
Ruby.

RAILROAD FACILITIES.

There are seven railroads now traversing different portions of this county and affording transportation for freight and passengers.

1st. The Florida Railway and Navigation, extending from Jacksonville to the Chattahoochee River, and connecting at that point with the Central and Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad, giving a direct route to Pensacola and New Orleans.

2d. The Waycross Railroad, an extension of the Savannah, Florida and Western system, from Jacksonville to Waycross, Ga., connecting at that point with the Savannah, Florida and Western Railroad, running east to Savannah and west to Albany, Ga.

3d. The Fernandina and Jacksonville Railroad, from Jacksonville to Hart's Road, in Nassau County, where it connects with the Florida Transit and Peninsular Railroad.

4th. The Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Halifax River Railroad, from Jacksonville to St. Augustine.

5th. The Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West Railroad. This road is now completed to Palatka and is being extended southward.

6th. The Florida Transit and Peninsular Railroad, passing through the western portion of the county, from Fernandina to Cedar Keys, Ocala and Leesburg.

7th. The Jacksonville and Atlantic Railroad, from the St. Johns River, opposite Jacksonville, eastward to the Atlantic Ocean, a distance of sixteen miles, at which point is projected a watering-place on one of the finest sea beaches in the world.

The cheapness of lands and the abundance and ease of obtaining fertilizers will always render the growth of the orange in this county popular and profitable. The eastern portion of Duval, as it is divided by the St. Johns River, has been considered, in consequence of its water protection, best adapted to the orange culture. Many flourishing and productive groves line the banks of our great river and beautify the interior of the county. One can rarely encounter a rural residence which is not environed by a cluster of these attractive trees. Purchasers obtain oranges in crates from the producers, or buy the crop as it hangs, gathering and packing it themselves. The usual price, according to quality, is from twelve to twenty dollars per thousand.

By the census of 1880, there were in this county 10,131 bearing trees, producing 3,000,000 oranges, valued at \$45,000, thus making Duval the sixth county in the State for the production of this fruit, and exceeded only by Hillsborough, Marion, Orange, Putnam and Volusia counties.

Dr. G. W. Davis, a citizen of this county and an authority on the subject, contributes the following article upon the varieties of oranges most suitable to this locality:

VARIETIES OF THE ORANGE.

In growing the orange, it is as well to plant varieties which have been tested and known to be prolific and desirable, as to plant seedlings, which possibly may not prove satisfactory when they come into bearing. For the past eight or ten years much attention has been given by amateurs and professional fruit growers to selecting the varieties which promise the best, and the result has been, that we are

now enabled to select varieties which give a wide range in the time of ripening, and almost every quality desirable. We propose to give a short description of a few well known varieties, which we believe will meet the requirements of all orange growers, and be satisfactory to nearly all concerned. We shall begin with the one we believe to be the best, embracing all the desirable qualities, and continue the list, pointing out the different features as they vary in comparison.

MAGNUM BONUM.

Large to very large; skin moderately thin, tough, smooth and glossy; pulp fine, tender, melting, juicy, sweet and vinous. The membranes inclosing the juice cells are remarkably thin, and leave but little residue on eating the orange. Ripens in January and is prime first of February. *The best.*

HOMOSASSA.

Medium size; skin very thin, smooth, tough and glossy; pulp very fine, remarkably juicy, sweet and delicious. Ripens in December and is prime in January; an early and prolific bearer.

HIGGINS.

Similar to Homosassa, but ripens later.

NONPAREIL.

Above medium; bright color, skin moderately thin, pulp tender and melting, juice sub-acid and vinous. Ripens last of January and February; an early bearer.

OLD VINI.

Above medium in size, oval in shape, skin rather thick and rough; pulp somewhat coarse, juice sweet and remarkable for a sprightly aromatic flavor. This is the standard for flavor, and bears the same relation to the orange that the Seckle pear does to all other pears. Ripens in January and is prime in February.

NAVEL.

Size very large; skin rough, thick and tough; conical in shape; blossom end presents the appearance of the human navel, hence its name; and this appearance is nothing more nor less than a small orange, inclosed and nearly surrounded by the pulp of the mother orange. Pulp very fine, melting, tender, juicy, sweet and good flavor. Ripens in February, and is valuable on account of its late ripening, keeping and carrying qualities. A very early bearer. Many believe it to be a shy bearer, but as the tree grows to maturity, we believe it will prove to be among the best. This variety will always be popular in consequence of its superior qualities when mature, and from the fact that none other can be substituted for it—it carries its own unchangeable “trade mark.” Tree a fair grower, nearly thornless, and fruit nearly seedless.

TARDIFF.

Size large, or above medium; skin rather rough and moderately thick and tough, pulp fine, tender, melting, juice sweet and good flavor. Ripens in March and April, and prime in May and June. A good ordinary orange, but valuable on account of late ripening and carrying qualities.

DUMMITT.

Large, bright, handsome shape; skin very thin and tender; pulp fine, melting, juicy, very sweet and vinous. One of the best, but in consequence of its thin, tender skin, it requires great care in handling to prevent bruising. A poor shipper. Ripens in January, and when in its prime one of the most delicious oranges known.

MEDITERRANEAN SWEET.

This variety is of medium or large size; oval in shape, medium thin skin, pulp a little coarse, juicy, and very sweet. Ripens in February. Tree a fair grower, but branches are inclined to droop and become dwarfish. Branches entirely thornless and fruit nearly seedless; an early and prolific bearer—will bear the second year after budding on five year old stock. Valuable for its early prolific bearing, thornless branches, late ripening and carrying qualities.

BEACH'S NO. 1 EGG.

Medium size; oval, skin medium, pulp rather coarse, juicy, sweet and delicious. Ripens first of November and prime in December. Valuable for its early ripening, sweetness and keeping and carrying qualities. Probably the best early ripening good orange.

PHILLIPS' BITTER SWEET.

Medium to large size; thin skin, pulp tender, juicy, slightly sub-acid, bitter and aromatic. Ripens from April to June. A good summer fruit. Tree is doubtless a hybrid of the sweet and wild orange, and the branches are free from thorns.

MANDARIN—TANGERINE—KID-GLOVE.

Oranges classed under this heading undoubtedly belong to a distinct species of the citrus family, as they have very few if any characteristics of the common oranges. Small to medium size, flattened at the blossom end or shaped like a tomato; skin rather smooth, ribbed, and when the fruit is mature it parts readily from the pulp. Pulp rather coarse, sections separate readily without breaking the membrane; juicy, sweet, aromatic and delicious. Ripens in December and prime in January. There are numerous varieties of this fine fruit, from the very small to large; skin usually bright or orange, with small dark speckles, and the odor on breaking the skin is strong, pungent and disagreeable. Dancy's Tangerine differs from the ordinary fruit only in color of the rind, which is of a deep crimson. Tree usually very thorny, leaves small, willow shaped, and branches slender and dark hue.

SATSUMA.

This is a late importation from Japan. Fruit much larger than the foregoing, but of same species and many of the characteristics. Tree a slow grower, branches drooping, thornless and fruit seedless; early and prolific bearer; bears second year after budding on four or five year old sour stock. Tree very hardy, leaves large and leathery, and will stand a low degree of temperature without injury. On account of its hardiness, disposition to dwarf, fine quality of fruit, early ripening—December—this should become a popular variety and be largely planted.

There are many other varieties of the orange which are doubtless equal, in many respects, to some we have mentioned above, but these we know to be all that is claimed for them, and a person owning a grove planted with a due proportion of the varieties here described, need look no farther for quality of fruit. Here we have varieties ripening from October to April, which ought to satisfy the taste and mind of all lovers and growers of the golden fruit.

It is contended by some, that to location, soil and cultivation, is due the superiority of one variety of fruit over another. This is undoubtedly true to a certain extent, that the same varieties, by different treatment, may be modified in qualities, but that a Homosassa, a Higgins, a Dummitt, or a Navel, by the most adverse culture, can lose entirely its characteristic identity, we do not believe.

Dr. C. J. Kenworthy, of Jacksonville, has been very successful in the cultivation of the dwarf orange, and it is delightful and instructive to notice the miniature trees in his garden bending beneath the weight of their delicious golden globes.

ORANGE CULTURE.

Wherever the soil is suitable, this county is adapted to the cultivation of this favorite fruit. It cannot and will not be denied that this industry is subject to occasional vicissitudes, similar to those of the late winter, which affected to a greater or less degree the groves in almost every portion of the peninsula. But such winters as that of 1883-84 rarely occur. The trees which lost their leaves by the frosts of last winter are again loaded with fruit, and compare favorably with those produced elsewhere. The county is dotted with groves of different ages and the acreage devoted to this fruit is constantly and rapidly increasing. It is claimed that the oranges of this section bear transportation better than those from other portions of the State. Certain it is that they are eagerly sought after by dealers and bring remunerative prices.

FISHERIES.

The St. Johns River and tributaries and our Atlantic coast teem with numerous varieties of choice food fishes. Considerable labor and capital are invested in this industry, and large numbers of the finny tribes are shipped to less favored localities. Many Northern fishermen come out in the fall and winter to engage in this pursuit, and the products of their labors are packed in ice and forwarded to New York, Boston, Philadelphia, etc. White shad begin to run here in December, and it is in contemplation by the United States Fish Commissioner to establish a hatching-ground for this valuable variety at some point on the St. Johns. Mullet, black-bass, channel-bass, sheephead, salt-water trout, black-fish, perch, bream, red snapper, grouper, and numerous other varieties furnish abundance of cheap and nutritious food for the masses and endless amusement to the sportsman. Oysters are found in large quantities and of excellent quality at the Bar and in the creeks near the mouth of the St. Johns.

GAME.

There are still to be found deer, wild turkeys and bears, in the way of large animals. Quail and wild duck are numerous in the fall and winter.

COUNTY SCHOOLS.

In the system of Common Schools as provided by the State of Florida, each county comprises a school district. The officers are a County Superintendent, a Board of Public Instruction, and Trustees of particular schools. They are supported by a general tax of one mill as a State tax, and a county tax of not less than two and one-half mills nor more than four mills, and the interest on the funds accruing from the sale of the School lands.

In Duval County there are now in operation sixty-one schools, among which are several graded Grammar schools and one High school. In these there are collected together several hundred pupils, with a corps of efficient teachers employed in each. Most of these are in the city of Jacksonville and its suburbs; yet there are one or two equally good and efficient in the rural districts.

There are in daily average attendance upon the schools of the county 1075 white pupils and 1326 colored pupils. The curriculum of the Grammar schools is of such a character as to fit the pupils at least for the ordinary demands of life, while the High school fits them for business life.

The schools are fully open to all the citizens of the county. Those

in the city proper are operated eight months, those of the suburbs six months, and those of the country schools five months each. All the schools are opened on the first Monday in October of each year.

The teachers are required to pass a searching examination, and unless satisfactory evidence is given of their educational qualifications they are not employed. They are also required to give ample evidence of their moral character. As a result, the educational opportunities and privileges of this county are to be favorably compared with most communities in the South, if not in the whole country. Eleven new schools have been opened during the present year.

JACKSONVILLE.

It is quite safe to say that the vast majority of all of those who visit Florida for health, pleasure, or business, do not leave the State without spending more or less time in its metropolis. It is the gateway of the State, and the great distributing point for the tens of thousands of strangers who annually seek its shores. Here they rest for a few days after their arrival, and here they linger for a time, before taking their departure, loth to leave its varied attractions. It is a busy, active, stirring city, full of life and bustle, containing all the promises of progress and prosperity, showing all the indications of future greatness. It keeps full pace with all the improvements that add to the comfort of humanity, and in these respects is not a whit behind communities of far greater age and denser population.

In her telegraph and telephone arrangements, her extensive and far-reaching railroad and steamboat connections, her complete and perfect systems of water-works, sewerage, public schools, churches, etc., she is on a par with the noblest city of the age.

In hotel and boarding-house accommodations, she stands confessedly without a superior and with but few rivals. The St. James, Windsor, Everett, Carleton and Duval houses, are known throughout the States for the comforts and luxuries they extend to the pleasure-seekers and invalids. These are supplemented by a host of other excellent minor hotels and boarding-houses, adapted to the wants and purses of all visitors. Large numbers make Jacksonville their headquarters for the season, making frequent excursions up the river and into the interior, but always returning with a sense of satisfaction and contentment.

Society is cosmopolitan here to a marked degree, and is derived from all quarters of this and foreign countries. Perhaps there is no Southern city, with the single exception of New Orleans, that presents this feature in a greater degree than Jacksonville, and it is greatly owing to this fact that it possesses such attractions for strangers. Churches of all

the various denominations, and the various shades of religious sentiment, open their doors for the benefit of the devoutly disposed.

As a place of sojourn for the tourist, the wealthy, and the fashionable classes, it is fast taking rank with Saratoga, Newport and Long Branch. With these elements, it is becoming a necessity to pass a portion of each winter in Jacksonville. Here they meet the same associates that they found during the summer at the most noted Northern resorts and there has simply been a change of climate and scenery. From the first of December to the middle of April, the city is crowded to overflowing with guests from every State in the Union, and from the leading foreign countries. Here they find all the conditions requisite for an existence of ease, luxury and pleasure, and can set at defiance the bleak hills and icy breezes of their homes in the higher latitudes. It is a great relief to these people to be able to take out-door exercise in midwinter, unencumbered by furs and heavy clothing, and to have their eyes and ears greeted by green shrubbery, beautiful flowers, and the notes of birds, at a season when their homes near the granite hills of New England, the great Northern Lakes, and the open prairies of the West, are cheerless and uninviting.

Every pleasant day they can be seen by hundreds, lounging upon the broad piazzas of the hotels, indulging in the luxury of a sun bath, sauntering through Bay street and inspecting the myriads of odd and rare things in the curiosity stores, or taking the air in the elegant carriages for which the city is famous. At night the parlors present a gay appearance. Each hotel has its band of musicians and hops are frequent. The handsomely dressed guests, attired in diamonds and costly fabrics, indulge in the mazy dance, or betake themselves to a social game of cards.

There are daily excursions to St. Augustine, Palatka, Fernandina, Mayport, Green Cove, and other favorite resorts, allowing an abundance of time to inspect these localities. Herein consists another of the attractions of this city. Its proximity to the points above mentioned permits frequent visits, that consume little time, and cost but a trifle.

The broad and noble St. Johns affords pastime for those fond of sailing or rowing. Safe and staunch boats are to be had in abundance, and furnish diversion to those fond of such amusements. Steam ferry-boats ply regularly to the opposite side of the river, where good roads, handsome residences and thriving orange groves await inspection.

Jacksonville, so named in honor of President Andrew Jackson, is situated on the west bank of the St. Johns, about twenty-five miles from its mouth.

The city is laid out at right angles, and the streets are wide and beautiful. The majestic oaks, with their far-reaching limbs draped with festoons of Spanish moss, impress strangers most favorably. The private residences are usually of a light and airy style of architecture, with numerous verandahs covered by vines and trailing plants. Much attention is given to shrubbery and many handsome flower gar-

dens are to be encountered. The orange-tree is seen everywhere, and in almost every yard are to be found from one to a dozen of these favorite trees, furnishing not only their delightful fruit, but a grateful shade.

The St. James is the only park in the city. It is surrounded by fine oaks, and contains several varieties of tropical plants.

Bay street, the business thoroughfare of the city, contains many imposing buildings that would do credit to communities of far greater pretensions. In the amount of business transacted by its merchants, and the general air of activity and stir that is presented, it is surpassed by but few in the South. This city is the base of supplies for a large portion of the State, and the facilities of the merchants are such that they are able to compete successfully with any other points.

There is every reason to believe that an appropriation will soon be made by the General Government for the erection of a public building for the accommodation of the offices located in the city. Jacksonville is the site of the United States Court for the Northern District of Florida, and here are situated the offices of the Judge, Marshal, and Clerk of that tribunal. The Collector of Internal Revenue for the State also has his headquarters in this city.

Jacksonville also contains the largest and most important post-office in the State, and is the distributing point for the bulk of the mails reaching Florida. The postmaster reports that his office returned to the government a net revenue of \$23,000 during the last year.

The Free Masons have Lodges, Chapters and Encampments. The Odd Fellows are also in a flourishing condition. The Knights of Honor, Foresters, and Sons of Temperance are largely represented. St. Luke's Hospital, an institution sustained by private charity, affords relief to destitute invalids.

The Library Association owns a handsome suite of rooms, where can be found the latest papers and magazines, and a collection of books.

Three daily papers, enterprising and well-conducted, enjoy a large circulation in the city and throughout the interior. There are several journals that issue a weekly edition.

The public schools are handsome and convenient buildings, employing an excellent corps of teachers and attended by large numbers of children. The facilities for obtaining a solid education are equally open to both races.

The city is illuminated by gas, and the electric light has recently been introduced.

Two clubs, the Yacht and the Jacksonville, have been formed for social enjoyment and intercourse, and contribute largely to the pleasure of their members and visitors.

There are three uniformed military companies, the Jacksonville Light Infantry, Metropolitan Light Infantry, and Light Artillery, and two companies of colored infantry.

Lines of splendid steamers leave daily for Palatka, Sanford and all intermediate points on the St. Johns river, and also to Mayport and Fort George Island, at the mouth of the same river. There are also two semi-weekly steamers direct to Charleston, S. C., touching at Savannah. These facilities give the citizens of this county advantages possessed by no other portion of the State, and should serve as a great inducement to all seeking a home in Duval.

Heavy freight is brought very cheaply from Northern ports by the coasting vessels constantly seeking the saw-mills for cargoes of lumber.

Lines of street cars traverse the principal portions of the city, and reach out to the suburbs. East Jacksonville, LaVilla, Brooklyn, Springfield, Oakland and Riverside, are largely peopled by persons who do business in the city proper, but who have their residences in the thriving environs.

The cheapness of building lots, and the fact that the residents of these places evade the payment of city taxes, have induced many to make their homes in the suburbs. East Jacksonville contains many large saw-mills, employing numerous laborers and furnishing immense quantities of lumber for home consumption and export. It is growing rapidly, and the road leading out to the grounds of the Jockey Club Association, two miles distant from Jacksonville, is lined with handsome residences.

Brooklyn and Riverside are beautifully situated on a bold bluff overlooking the St. Johns river for a considerable distance. Here are to be found most desirable sites for building purposes, many of which are already occupied by costly and imposing structures.

A large portion of Springfield has been laid off in lots, and the sounds of the hammer and saw are heard in every direction. The carpenters are also busy in Lavilla and Oakland, and the value of real estate is constantly on the increase in these thriving settlements. All contain churches and schools, and boast of an orderly and progressive population.

METEOROLOGICAL RECORD,

TAKEN FROM THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE SIGNAL SERVICE, U. S. A.,

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.

MONTHS.	TEMPERATURE.												MONTHLY MEAN HUMIDITY.								
	1879.			1880.			1881.			1882.				1883.							
	Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean.		Max.	Min.	Mean.					
January	80.	25.	53.4	77.	45.	62.0	72.	33.	52.7	78.	32.	62.5	76.	29.	57.9	66.8	76.6	75.	74.8	1882	1883
February	79.	35.	54.5	81.	42.	60.9	78.	34.	57.9	79.	38.	61.7	83.	40.	64.3	66.9	71.2	65.8	70.2	77.1	
March	86.	44.	64.0	86.	43.	68.1	80.	37.	59.5	88.	47.	66.6	79.	40.	60.4	68.4	66.8	57.2	65.8	65.5	
April	88.	30.	67.9	91.	42.	70.9	88.	37.	67.2	85.	56.	70.9	88.	52.	70.1	63.1	61.6	61.5	75.6	74.7	
May	91.	60.	73.8	95.	58.	74.0	96.	63.	75.8	89.	51.	74.5	88.	54.	73.9	70.5	72.8	80.5	69.2	66.8	
June	96.	62.	79.4	100.5	69.	82.1	99.	66.	82.5	95.5	65.	81.1	95.	68.	80.9	68.0	67.9	64.9	70.4	75.9	
July	104.	68.	83.1	97.	70.	82.7	99.	70.	83.7	94.	71.	80.9	96.	69.	81.6	70.9	69.9	72.2	76.	72.	
August	96.	68.	80.9	96.5	70.	81.1	96.	69.	81.5	96.	69.	81.6	94.5	70.5	80.8	74.8	73.7	73.6	74.4	76.4	
September	90.	61.	76.3	91.	62.	76.6	94.	69.	79.9	94.	65.	77.8	90.	55.	76.5	83.	74.6	76.4	76.4	77.6	
October	86.	52.	73.2	85.	46.	68.7	88.	54.	74.7	86.	51.	72.6	82.	59.	74.2	77.7	79.2	75.3	76.3	75.	
November	83.	34.5	63.0	82.	39.	61.2	83.	32.	65.6	80.	38.	60.0	83.	43.	63.8	72.9	79.2	75.3	76.3	75.	
December	79.	36.	62.2	78.	19.	53.6	79.	41.	61.4	76.	28.	54.2	78.	30.5	60.5	75.2	66.3	75.2	75.3	77.8	
Annual Means..			69.3			70.2			70.2			70.4			70.6	71.5	71.5	70.2	73.5	74.8	

(CONTINUED.)

MONTHLY RAINFALL, INCH. & HUNDRETHS.													WEATHER.													TEMPER.													1884.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
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Verified and corrected at the Office of the Chief Signal Officer of the Army, Washington, February 8, 1884

J. W. SMITH, *Sergeant, Signal Corps, U. S. Army.*



VILLA ALEXANDRIA.

VILLA ALEXANDRIA.

Landscape Gardening, as an art, has thus far received no large share of attention in Florida; but, scattered here and there, throughout the State, may be found a few places in which taste, culture and abundant means have developed the natural beauties of the country and produced the most pleasing results.

"The Mitchell Place, or "Villa Alexandria," which is situated on a beautiful curve of the St. Johns River, about two miles south of Jacksonville, is justly considered one of the most attractive and delightful country residences in this "Land of Flowers," and during the winter season, when our country is full of health-and-pleasure-seekers, it is the Mecca of many pilgrims.

Our engraving shows the front or river entrance to the grounds, with the Villa seen through an arched opening in the trees. The first glimpse of "Alexandria," as the visitor lands at the boat-house, is very attractive and charming—indeed, quite *unique*, as a beautiful, half-revealed rural picture; and this prepossessing impression is increased rather than lessened by a closer inspection of the Villa, the grounds, the orange groves and general surroundings.

Passing from the boat-landing toward the entrance, the clear, white beach of shining shells first attracts attention. Then the far-reaching hedge of Cherokee Roses, rolling its heavy masses of "greenery," like a huge emerald wave along the shelly shore—reaching out its long, slender, swaying wands in all directions, or climbing, vine-like, into the tops of the tall cypress and pine trees;—this lovely, evergreen, thorny border and barrier—attractive and repellant—is charming at all times, but especially when covered with the myriads of large, showy, white blossoms, which literally envelope it for a few weeks in early spring, it forms a combination of the *utile cum dulce* to be long and admirably remembered.

Upon entering the massive iron gates, (swung from tall brick pillars crowned with vases of tropical plants), cool, shady and alluring walks branch off in different directions, and one especially, the "Up-River Road," leads southward along the curving shore, under the shadows of huge, towering trees, heavily draped and festooned with that most graceful of Florida plants, the gray, "Spanish Moss," (*Tillandsia usneoides*), affording at every step a new view of the broad, silvery river; the heavily wooded, high banks; the dense jungles of cane-brake, bamboo-brier, smilax, palmetto, etc., along the water's edge; and, in many places, strikingly reminding the visitor of the sylvan gothic arches and weird moss drapery in the long, converging aisles of "Bonaventure"—that loveliest gateway to the "Land of the Here-after."

On returning from the southern boundary or terminus of the grounds, by the "River Road" or "Upper Path, (which skirts a long, wood-fringed bluff), the extensive, beautifully kept and flourishing orange groves, and the great variety of rare and lovely flowering plants, vines,

trees and shrubs—palms, cape jasmines, magnolias, azaleas, camellias, roses, acacias, etc., will be found worthy of particular examination and attention. The "Great Live Oak" then looms into view, and dwarfs by comparison all the neighboring "tenants of the wood." This truly magnificent specimen of *Quercus sempervirens* is known as the "Council Oak," and tradition avers that, in long-past times, the Indians were wont to assemble 'neath the shade of its wide-spreading branches, and hold their councils of war and peace; plan hostile forays or friendly hunting parties; and decide all questions of moment and importance. "Howe'er this may be," we know not; but certainly the antique legend and tradition throws a poetical glamour around this grand old forest monarch, which adds to its interest and charm.

The *tout ensemble* and general "tone" of "Alexandria" is reposeful, quiet and refined. All the natural beauties of the place have been carefully preserved, and the improvements and embellishments have always been directed by that fine taste, judgment and skill which are the natural results of intuitive artistic perception aided and developed by large culture and varied and extensive observation and travel.

"Villa Alexandria" is the favorite winter residence of Mrs. ALEXANDER MITCHELL, of Milwaukee; and to this "lady of the manor" may justly be ascribed the credit and honor of creating or evolving from very crude materials this delightful and most attractive Florida home—a beautiful example of what taste, perseverance and means may accomplish in our favored climate in a few short years.

OKLAHOMA.

On the opposite side of the river from the city is the terminus of the Jacksonville and Atlantic, and the Jacksonville and St. Augustine railroads. Two steam ferry-boats ply between this point and Jacksonville.

Oklahoma is growing rapidly, and will soon be one of the important suburbs of Jacksonville. Land for a marine railway has just been purchased. The groves and gardens of this settlement are very attractive and much visited by strangers.

MANDARIN.

This is one of the oldest settlements in the county, twelve miles south of Jacksonville, and contains the most flourishing orange groves in Duval. It is noted as being the winter residence of the famous authoress, Mrs. Harriett Beecher Stowe. The lands around Mandarin are of excellent quality, and the general appearance of the place indicates the intelligence and progressive character of its population.

Tisonia is a growing place on the Waycross connection. There are several saw-mills in the vicinity, and a considerable business is done in lumber.

PANAMA PARK.

Panama Park is a beautiful tract of undulating country, situated about three and a half miles north of the present limits of the city of Jacksonville, partly in the form of a peninsula, having its shores on the north and east constantly bathed by the tides of Trout Creek and St. Johns River—both of which noble streams are in full view of this delightful suburb and contribute to its attractiveness and salubrity. The view to the northeast embraces a grand expanse of water stretching away almost to St. Johns bar, whence the roar of the surf may often be distinctly heard, and the ocean breeze comes without interruption. A few years ago this tract was a wilderness; now it is a lovely village with church, school, railroad depot, steamboat landings, store and telephone, and possesses advantages rarely equaled in any other place for a comfortable and healthy residence throughout the year, where the privileges of country and city can be combined.

CHASEVILLE, ARLINGTON, AND ST. NICHOLAS.

The above settlements are desirably located on the river, within easy access of the city, and contain many handsome residences and orange groves. Arlington boasts an excellent hotel; lands in the neighborhood of these places are good, and are adapted to the cultivation of fruits and vegetables.

Desirable lands can be had around Moncrief, Gravely Hill, Beauclerc's Bluff, Camp Mooney, Broward's Neck, Geigers, and the new towns of Edgewood, Bayard and Maxville.

These lands are productive, easily cultivated, and can be purchased at prices far below those paid for inferior lands higher up the river. An inspection of the orange groves in and around all the points above mentioned, will satisfy any inquirer that this fruit can be as profitably and safely raised in Duval as in most of the up-river counties, where the ease and convenience of transportation are far inferior to similar facilities enjoyed in this section.

MAYPORT AND PILOT TOWN.

These places lie near the mouth of the St. Johns, about twenty-five miles from Jacksonville, and attract many visitors, especially during the summer. The fishing and bathing facilities are fine, and the accommodations are excellent.

BALDWIN.

This settlement is situated about twenty miles west of Jacksonville, on the intersection of the two main trunk lines of the Florida Navigation and Railway Company. It contains several stores, churches and schools. Good lands can be obtained in the vicinity at reasonable prices.

NEW BERLIN.

This is a thriving settlement on the river, a few miles north of Jacksonville, and extensive fisheries are here successfully conducted.

EASTERN PORTION OF DUVAL COUNTY.

Notwithstanding the superior advantages of Duval County in relation to markets and commercial facilities, in no portion of East Florida have the lands been less appreciated or attracted less attention from capitalists or emigrants seeking homes.

While other districts have been proclaiming in every possible form their peculiar advantages and vaunting their claims to exclusive attractions; while "syndicates" and individual capitalists have been investing in enormous tracts of wild territory farther south, and the press of Jacksonville and interested agents here have been setting forth in glowing pictures imaginary advantages of more southern localities, Duval County has been suffered to lie comparatively dormant and only received attention from the more cool and calculating immigrant whose experience has taught him that the real value of land for occupation or for speculative purposes is more in proportion to the advantages and facilities for marketing its products than in the specific amount of their products.

To use a modern coinage to express inflated progress, no "boom" for this region has been attempted to secure popular favor, though in soil, climate, and all the elements of advantageous and profitable occupation, the lands of Duval are the equal of the most "booming" districts farther South, where lands command double and quadruple the price, and where the expense of making homes and reaching markets are fourfold more than here.

With full knowledge and appreciation of the beautiful semi-tropical southern region, drained by the grand river St. Johns and its tributaries, and the country dotted all over with beautiful lakes and springs, and intersected everywhere by tortuous streams finding their outlets in the harbors of the Gulf; rejoicing in all that tends to the rapid development of the more southern counties where the wave of civilization is converting the wilderness into a garden, and without detracting from any of these, we still say that no portion of Florida, and we believe no portion of any other State, offers inducements for the investment of capital and industry superior to this county of Duval, and more especially that portion lying east of the St. Johns river, extending to the Atlantic coast.

This section, by reason of its exemption from the severe frosts which attach to more western localities on account of the sheltering waters of the St. John's, is eminently fitted for orange culture and produces a fruit which is not excelled. It possesses every variety of soil common to East Florida, and abounds in shell deposits, marl, clay suitable for

brick, and a great variety of timber, including the spreading live oak, cabbage palm, cedar, cypress, pine, magnolia, etc. It is intersected by streams which, at no distant day, will be utilized for inland navigation from the mouth of the St. Johns to Indian River. It is traversed by the Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Halifax Railroad, now in full operation, and the Atlantic Railroad, now nearly completed from Jacksonville east to the ocean.

- These railroad companies have acquired fifty or sixty thousand acres of the State swamp lands, which can be had for settlement at low prices; while there is United States land, which can be secured by homestead entry or purchase. Many large tracts of the old Spanish grants are awaiting purchasers and occupants.

- The same class of lands that are now commanding speculative prices for fruit culture and vegetable products for Northern markets in the more southern districts, can here be purchased at first prices, and for purposes of occupation and cultivation, are more eligible for immediate profit, in easy reach of Jacksonville and St. Augustine, with facilities for daily communication by rail and river with the great cities of the North.

The severest winter experienced for years has just passed, and the citrus culture of this region has stood the test of the frost with the thermometer at 22° above zero, and the fact is fully demonstrated that orange groves may be as permanently relied on here as in any part of the State farther south, and by reason of their contiguity to the home market, are much more profitable; while the peach, pear, grape and fig, are more successfully cultivated here than in the more tropical sections.

For market gardening, no locality can offer greater inducements. The cultivation of the more perishable products, as figs, strawberries and flowers, may be pursued with the greatest advantage.

The influence of the commercial emporium of East Florida, with its rapid development, will command for all the available lands of the county speedy occupation and largely increased value. To the immigrant seeking a home, to the capitalist seeking profitable investment, to the manufacturer, the artisan, the mechanic, the laborer, the agriculturist, the florist, the horticulturist, the invalid and the pleasure-seeker, we commend the county of Duval, on the lower St. Johns.

WOODS OF DUVAL COUNTY.

The forests of Duval County are very similar to those of other portions of the peninsula north of the Caloosahatchie. South of the Caloosahatchie the forests are essentially like those of the West Indies, while west of the Suwanee River they are very similar to those of the Carolinas and Virginia. Between these two very dissimilar portions of the State lies the great orange region, composing about twenty counties, which, as to natural forest growth, vary but little from each others

except as to the ratio of oak to pine timber and the comparative commercial value of the latter. Nearly the whole of Duval County is covered with the yellow pine, a tree of greater importance to Florida than all others combined, furnishing material for building, for fuel, and for a large valuable export trade. As this county is traversed by numerous railroads and navigable streams, the timber in all portions of it is easily reached, and it has long been the source of an extensive trade in lumber, located principally at Jacksonville. At present there is but little prime merchantable timber remaining, yet our forests may still be drawn upon heavily for common building materials, fuel, rosin and turpentine. In low lands there is much of the Cuban pitch pine, which is excellent for framing timber, of slash pine (a variety of yellow pine with coarse grain and bark), and there is a little of the loblolly and pond pines, which are worthless. On pine lands of poor quality we find an undergrowth of small oaks, the turkey oak, post oak, and forked leaf black-jack; the latter is most abundant and furnishes excellent fuel.

All forests in which pine does not predominate in Florida are called hammocks. In Duval County they do not cover large areas, as in some other counties, but are restricted to the borders of water courses. The hammocks are forests of a sub-tropical character, consisting mainly of evergreen trees intermixed with shrubs and dwarf palmettoes, interlaced with vines and draped with long moss, (*Tillandsia*.) The trees most characteristic of the hammocks are the live oak and magnolia, two magnificent trees, unrivaled by any others growing east of the Rocky Mountains. As fine specimens of both may be found in Duval County as in any other part of the State. The live oak is no longer destroyed for ship timber, but is carefully preserved as the grandest of all shade trees. Next to these two trees, in abundance and size, rank the water oak and the red bay. The former is, properly speaking, the short-leaved willow-oak; it is of more rapid growth than the live oak; its foliage is handsomer, it bears transplanting well, and for these reasons it is used for shade more than other tree. The streets of Jacksonville are bordered with it, with occasionally a true water oak, which may be distinguished by its broad, wedge-shaped leaves. In door-yards and cemeteries a favorite tree is the evergreen cherry, commonly but improperly called mock orange or wild olive. It is sometimes found wild in the hammocks, but of small size. (Its bark, leaves and seeds are impregnated with hydrocyanic acid. This tree and the vine called yellow jessamine, are poisonous if eaten. But they may be handled with impunity, like all other plants growing in the county, except the poison ivy, which occurs in low hammocks. A few herbs produce a nettling sensation, but this is only momentary.) The red bay referred to above is sometimes called Florida Mahogany, on account of the beautiful color of its wood. The wood of the magnolia is also very handsome. The pig-nut hickory abounds, and the red hickory and red oak are occasionally met with. Of the smaller trees

of the dry hammocks the most noticeable are the American holly and the American olive, which have very beautiful foliage.

Old fields, which were cultivated by the Spaniards and Indians, and afterward abandoned, have a characteristic tree growth, consisting of live oaks and loblolly pines, intermixed with wild plums and cherries, the persimmon, chinquapin and prickly ash. The latter has a curious warty bark, which has been much used as a substitute for quinine.

In wooded swamps and on river shores the variety of trees is quite different and less distinctively Southern. Here we find such Northern trees as the red maple, sweet gum, sour gum, red cedar, wax myrtle, elm, green ash and white ash. The Southern trees characteristic of the swamps are the tan or bull bay, (a beautiful tree in the Camellia family, with bark very rich in tannin), the white or swamp bay, (a species of magnolia here attaining a large size), the swamp ash, swamp hickory, water oak, tupelo, the pines, mentioned before, and the bald cypress. The wood of the latter is valuable for many purposes. Cypress of more slender growth abounds in the shallow ponds so frequently met with in the flat pine woods.

In the eastern part of Duval County, near the ocean, are some very fine hammocks, in the lower portions of which grow the pencil cedar, and the palmetto, the latter in great abundance. Here also are found *natural groves* of the *sour orange*, growing with oaks, bays, and other indigenous trees, the golden fruit ripening in the deepest shades of the primeval forest. This proves that Duval County is naturally adapted to the culture of the orange, the cultivated sweet variety being no less hardy than the sour.

A. H. CURTISS.

FORT GEORGE ISLAND.

Fort George Island is situated at the mouth of the St. Johns River, twenty-two miles from Jacksonville, and is the southernmost of those famous Sea Islands that extend from Virginia to the St. Johns River, Landing from the steamers at the Pilot Town wharf, two miles above the bar, after a drive of a short distance through the little town, the island proper is entered over a splendid shell road. This road, two and a half miles in length, called Edgewood Avenue, is cut through the natural forests of live oak, cedar, magnolia, palmetto, bay and other semi-tropical trees, and winding, as it does, along the edge of the highland, with many graceful curves, shaded from the sun in the hot bright days, protected by the heavy fringe of evergreens from all cold winds, and made entirely of oyster shells, is hard, smooth and practically level, and makes a drive unequalled in the State. It is but a portion of the system of excellent roads, having a total length of twenty-seven miles, that penetrate the island in every direction. Almost at the entrance of the island, on the left of the Avenue, is the old ruined "Ghost house," built of that admixture of shell lime and sand called "tabby," crumbling into decay, overgrown by huge cedars and

clinging moss, a truly romantic spot. On either side of this old ruin, and for two miles along the Avenue, are immense mounds of oyster shells, ranging in height from ten to fifty feet, with here and there a sepulchre mound, completely covered by the luxuriant forest growth. As the Avenue skims the eastern side of the island, through the belt of trees and shrubs fringing the edge, the ocean is occasionally seen, contrasting its ever-moving surface with the quiet, solemn woods, on the west side. On the one side the restless breakers, with their silvered foam; on the other, the dark unbroken repose of the forest. Fronting on the Avenue are the residences and young plantations of several Northern gentlemen who have settled here within the last few years, attracted by the long established healthfulness of the island and its beauties, as well as by the fertility of the soil.

Further along Edgewood Avenue and two and a half miles from the Pilot Town landing, is Fort George Hotel, one of the best built and most comfortable hotels in the State, handsomely furnished, with all necessary appointments. To the west of the Fort George Hotel rises a ridge, the highest point of land on the coast, according to the United States Coast Survey, between the highlands of New Jersey and the Rio Grande, being ninety-five feet above the water. It is covered with live oak and other evergreen trees from the foot to the crown, and surmounted by an observatory, from which an unobstructed view, both inland and seaward, rewards the visitor for the trouble of climbing up and around the winding paths cut in the hill slopes. A good carriage road also leads to the top. At the end of the ridge, in the midst of the beautiful Magnolia Park, is Point Isabel, from which another exquisite view is had of the ocean and a cluster of little lakelets at the foot of the hill.

At the extreme north end of the island, fronting on Fort George Inlet, is the old Plantation House, built over a hundred years ago on the site of a much older house, and approached from the east through a long avenue of aged moss-draped cedars and from the south through the wonderful Avenue of Palmettos.

The whole western portion of the island is of the same character, with the same soil; is clear of woods and is ready for the plow, while the central and eastern part is covered with a dense growth of trees. Several large orange groves have been planted on the western and northern portions of the island within the last few years, and several are now in bearing. All of these groves are as thrifty and promising as groves in any portion of the State. The old fruit trees now on the island prove that many kinds of fruit raised in Florida do as well here as at points further south.

Surrounded, as the island is, by salt tidal water, without any stagnant pools, malaria is unknown, and the extreme healthfulness of the place is noted. Those who have already become residents, chiefly from the North, chose the island after experimenting elsewhere, and enjoy uninterrupted good health.

PABLO BEACH—JACKSONVILLE AND ATLANTIC RAILROAD.

The beach, from extreme high to extreme low water mark, is from two hundred to five hundred yards in width, affording a smooth, perfectly hard, straight and unbroken drive of twenty-five miles, or from Mayport to St. Augustine. At the extreme high-water mark is a row of high sand-dunes, which it is proposed by the company to level—the sand taken therefrom to be used in filling up such low places or depressions as may be found in the rear of the town site. The bluff at this point after the sand-dunes are cut down will be eight feet above the extreme high water mark, thus giving sufficient elevation to permit of a most thorough system of drainage, which will at once be made by the company.

The town plot has already been surveyed and mapped. The streets and avenues are wide and are to run due north and south and east and west. On the bluff, above high-water mark and immediately between the front row of lots and the beach where the sand-dunes now stand, is to be a boulevard, 250 feet wide, running along the entire town front, which is to be improved as the company sees fit, but will, in all probability, be planted out in St. Augustine or some other green grass and shade trees, and on the beach, in front of the centre of each block, will be erected ornamental bathing-houses, each house to contain three apartments.

The bathing here is excellent, the average temperature of the water being seventy-eight degrees the year through and never so low in winter even as to be uncomfortable. For this reason the company expect to make this a popular winter as well as summer resort, and persons can bathe at any season of the year with impunity. Another great advantage is that while the surf is always high there is a perfect freedom from the under current or tow, which renders precautionary life-lines, boats, etc., such as are required at all the Northern resorts, unnecessary, and bathers can go out several hundred yards from the land with perfect safety.

As an extra precaution against the possibility of the bluff being damaged during heavy storms, a breakwater will be constructed at the extreme high water by driving rows of piling, which will project six or eight feet above high-water mark.

The general passenger station will be located at the corner of Duval avenue and First street, and the entire block immediately on the south of this is reserved for hotel purposes, and upon that on the north will be erected a large ornamental, covered pavilion, for the accommodation of excursionists. In the centre of the pavilion will be the artesian well, which has already been sunk to a depth of three hundred and sixty feet, from which there is a constant flow of pure water, the temperature of which is about sixty-five degrees.—*Times-Union*.

A TROPICAL REGION.

That portion of Duval County lying south and east of the St. Johns River yields large crops of oranges every year, no matter how cold the weather may be, and the reason is obvious. On the west and south is St. Johns River, miles in width. This stream rises in South Florida, and is fed by warm water springs. It has a uniform temperature, winter and summer of 74°. When the thermometer goes below 32° there is a dense fog formed by the waters of this river which envelopes the surrounding lands. Our coldest winds come from the northwest. In passing over this vast area of warm water the chill is taken off and the fog above alluded to is blown toward the Atlantic coast, fifteen miles away. The Gulf Stream flows along the Atlantic coast in a northerly direction, and the temperature of this stream is 78°. An easterly wind sometimes brings up a fog from it, which is blown toward St. Johns River. Therefore the peninsular portion of Duval County is in cold weather frequently visited by fogs formed of salt and medicated waters, which protect oranges from the cold weather of less favored regions, and fill the atmosphere with healthful and anti-septic qualities. If these fogs arose from miasmatic swamps they would carry disease and death with them; but as they are from the Gulf Stream and the St. John River, passing through miles of healthful pines, they bring healing on their wings. As a result of this, the section alluded to is the healthiest in the county, and that it is beneficial to the orange and other tropical fruits, the hundreds of orange groves in this section of the county is the best proof. Here the trees are not hurt by the cold, and the yield of oranges per acre, year after year, cannot be beat by the most favored region of South Florida. There are here all the conditions which make the Indian River orange of such rich flavor and of such luxuriant growth.

Apiculture could be made a paying business and the bees could gather honey and pollen almost every month of the year. Mr. U. S. Hart, of Volusia County, says on this subject:

"The average natural increase and honey production is from one to three and 150 pounds of honey. I have never seen or known of a diseased colony of bees in the State. The enemies are toads, dragonflies, ants, moths and birds. Some of the leading pollen and honey-producing trees are the maple, willow, sweet gum, bays, orange, myrtle, oak, basswood, hickory, youpon, mock-olive, saw-palmetto and cabbage palmetto.

"They produce honey in abundance of the finest quality, and we think it safe to say never fail to produce a good crop. We also have honey-producing vines and plants too numerous to mention."

Bananas, guavas, lemons, Japan persimmons and plums, pears, pecans, pomegranates and jule, grow well in this county, but are not cultivated to any extent.

Of late some attention has been given to the saw-palmetto, which is very abundant, as affording material for the manufacture of paper-pulp. Specimens of paper from this plant have been exhibited that possess great tenacity and toughness and were admirably suited for bank notes, bonds and records. Of the same article are also made hats, fans, brushes, cordage, fiber for stuffing mattresses, cushions, etc. Experiment will doubtless discover other uses for this plant, once regarded as an incumbrance.

Fuel is cheap and abundant and heavy clothing seldom required.

Comfortable buildings can be erected at a moderate expense, and so rapid is the growth of vegetation that shrubbery and flowers will soon render the home pleasant and attractive.

WHEN AND WHAT TO PLANT.

Below is given briefly what may generally be safely adopted for this county :

In January plant Irish potatoes, peas, beets, turnips, cabbage, and all hardy or semi-hardy vegetables ; make hot-beds for pushing the more tender plants, such as melons, tomatoes, okra, egg-plants, etc. ; set out fruit and other trees, and shrubbery.

February—Keep planting for a succession, same as in January, plant vines of all kinds, shrubbery and fruit trees of all kinds, especially of the citrus family, snap beans, corn ; bed sweet potatoes for draws and slips. Oats may also be still sown, as they are in previous months.

March—Corn, oats, and planting of February may be continued ; transplant tomatoes, egg-plants, melons, beans, and vines of all kinds ; mulberries and blackberries are now ripening.

April—Plant as in March, except Irish potatoes, kohl rabi, turnips ; continue to transplant tomatoes, okra, egg-plants ; sow millet, corn, cow peas, for fodder ; plant the butter bean, lady peas ; dig Irish potatoes. Onions, beets, and usual early vegetables should be plenty for table.

May—Plant sweet potatoes for draws in beds ; continue planting corn for table ; snap beans, peas and cucumbers ought to be well forward for use ; continue planting okra, egg-plants, pepper, and butter beans.

June—The heavy planting of sweet potatoes and cow peas is now in order ; Irish potatoes, tomatoes, and a great variety of table vegetables are now ready, as also plums, early peaches and grapes.

July—Sweet potatoes and cow peas are safe to plant, the rainy season being favorable ; grapes, peaches and figs are in full season. Orange trees may be set out if the season is wet.

August—Finish up planting sweet potatoes and cow peas ; sow cabbage, cauliflower, turnips for fall planting ; plant kohl rabi and rutabagas ; transplant orange trees and bud ; last of month plant a few Irish potatoes and beans.

September—Now is the time to commence for the true winter garden, the garden which is commenced in the North in April and May. Plant the whole range of vegetables except sweet potatoes; set out asparagus, onion sets and strawberry plants.

October—Plant same as last month; put in garden peas; set out cabbage plants, dig sweet potatoes, sow oats, rye, etc.

November—A good month for garden; continue to plant and transplant, same as for October; sow oats, barley and rye for winter pasturage or crops; dig sweet potatoes; house or bank them; make sugar and syrup.

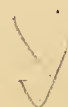
December—Clear up generally; fence, ditch, manure, and sow and plant hardy vegetables; plant, set out orange trees, fruit trees and shrubbery; keep a sharp look-out for an occasional frost; a slight protection will prevent injury.

It will be seen from the above that there is no month in the year but what fresh and growing vegetables can be had for sale and domestic use. This latter is a large item in the expense of living. The soil is so easily worked, so easily cultivated, that most of garden work can be performed by even delicate ladies and young children of both sexes. Indeed, most Florida gardens are so made—no frozen clods to break, or rocks to remove. A garden once put in condition, properly managed, will produce abundantly and constantly. The rapid growth assures large and tender vegetables, early and luscious fruit. A single season will afford strawberries from the setting out, ripe figs from two-year old cuttings, grapes the second year, peaches the second and third years, oranges from the bud in three to five years. At a little cost, a little care, one can literally sit under his own vine and fig-tree, and enjoy fresh plucked fruit the whole year.

CLASS OF IMMIGRANTS WANTED.

We want population from every State in the Union and from every country in Europe; we want the thrifty and industrious to join us in occupying and building up the vacant places in our favored State, that they may secure pleasant homes for themselves and their families; we want them to identify themselves with our present population, and enjoy all the rights and privileges of the native born, which the laws of the State now fully guarantee to them. We have State and United States lands, which can be had for a mere nominal price. We need population. We will give immigrants a hearty welcome, and extend to them full and equal protection; we have no prejudices to overcome, for we are already cosmopolitan; we want immigrants of kindred races, that we may be a homogeneous people; we are all immigrants or their descendants; we give immigration credit for all we are or hope to become. We do not wish to be misunderstood on this point; we do not want immigrants for subordinate positions, but, on

the contrary, invite them to locate, and become the owners of their homes in fee simple forever; we want them to become citizens, and have with us equal political privileges and responsibilities in all the obligations imposed upon citizens under a Republican government; we want persons skilled in a great variety of mechanical and agricultural pursuits—in fact, in all of the industries of life, for we have a State possessed of the requisite conditions for successful cultivation and development. We want, especially, persons skilled in gardening and fruit growing, in the cultivation of tobacco, sugar, etc.; we want grape and orange growers, together with the whole list of semi-tropical fruits; we want manufacturers of lumber and naval stores; we want, especially, capital to develop our unbounded resources; we want immigrants that will bring along with them sufficient means and energy to enter upon business for themselves, to buy our cheap lands, become permanent residents, practical fruit growers and successful agriculturists, or who will follow some mechanical or manufacturing occupation; we want settlers who are willing to rely on their own exertions and means to make themselves beautiful homes. To such we say, Come, and if you have good staying qualities, your reward is sure.



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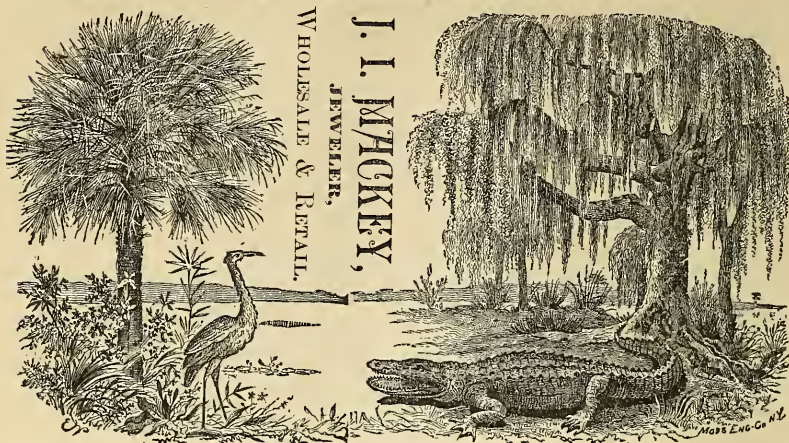
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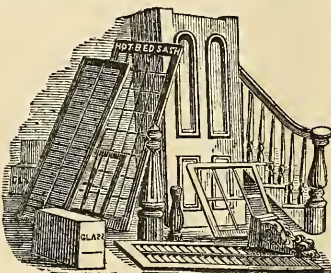
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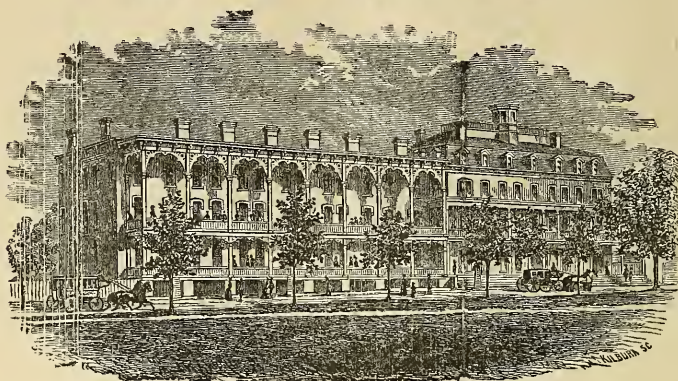
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of acres of Farming, Orange, Timber and Grazing Lands, situated in 29 counties, and comprising the lands bought by Sir Edward J. Reed, from the State of Florida in 1881, are now offered at graded prices. These lands were selected by Hon. Hugh A. Corley, late Commissioner of the State Land Office, and Mr. M. A. Williams, late agent for sale of State lands, which fact is a guaranty of their high quality. The purchase known as the Reed Purchase was only opened for sale this year, and the lands have not been culled or picked over. No part has been reserved in any manner, and the whole is open for sale. Special prices on large tracts. Timber lands, virgin forests in bodies of 50,000 acres and upwards. Lands sold for cash, or on long time.

The Florida Land and Mortgage Co.
(LIMITED) JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.

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UNLOCKS THE COMBINATION

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TRAVEL INTO FLORIDA!

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COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING LINES:

CENTRAL DIVISION, (F. T. & P. R. R.)	155 Miles
WESTERN DIVISION, (F. C. & W. R. R.)	209 Miles
SOUTHERN DIVISION, (Tropical Fla. R. R.)	105 Miles
JACKSONVILLE BRANCH, (F. & J. R. R.)	22 Miles
LEESBURG BRANCH, (Leesburg & Ind. River R. R.)	22 Miles
ST. MARKS BRANCH	21 Miles
MONTICELLO BRANCH	4 Miles

Total.....**538 Miles**

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By reason of our recent traffic arrangement with the DeBary-Baya Merchants Line of steamers, passengers are offered an elegant through connection, by water, at Savannah and Jacksonville, for the St. Johns River Country and all Interior Points. THROUGH TICKETS on sale at all Coupon Ticket Offices throughout the United States and Canada, and at Leve & Alden's Tourist Offices, AS CHEAP AS BY ANY ROUTE.

BE CERTAIN that your tickets READ either *via* Fernandina, Callahan, Baldwin, Live Oak or River Junction, and the F. R. & N.

D. E. MAXWELL, *Gen. Supt.*, **A. O. MACDONELL**, *G. P. & T. A.*
Fernandina, Fla. *Fernandina, Fla.*

WALTER G. COLEMAN, *Gen. Trav. Pass. Agt.*,
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FOR MAKING FIRST-CLASS FERTILIZERS
(BY COMPOSTING)

FOR VEGETABLES, ORANGE CULTURE, Special Mixtures
for Each Crop.

\$6.00 Per Barrel which makes a Half-Ton of Complete Fertilizer.
For Every FARMER, whether land owner or tenant, we think
desires to know

how to produce
LARGE CROPS in 1885 cheaper than
same crop cost in 1884.
POWELL'S Prepared CHEMICALS, properly composted, solves the problem.
of FERTILITY. It is a 520 lbs. of Powell's Prepared Chemicals, which, without any
produce a Large Yield, but will permanently enrich the land. Leading farmers in every State as well as
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PALATKA AND ALL LANDINGS ON UPPER ST. JOHNS RIVER,

**TAMPA, MANATEE RIVER, KEY WEST, HAVANA
AND NEW ORLEANS.**

DOUBLE DAILY DEPARTURES.

PEOPLES LINE STEAMERS.

Steamers H. B. PLANT, of the People's Line, and CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, of the De Bary-Baya Merchants' Line, will run as follows—leaving the De Bary-Baya Line wharf, at foot of Laura street:

Leave Savannah, Florida and Western Railway wharf, Jacksonville, daily, on arrival of Fast Mail Train	12:30 p. m.
Leave Jacksonville.....	2:30 p. m.
Leave Palatka.....	8:00 p. m.
Leave Astor.....	1:25 a. m.
Arrive Sanford, South Florida Railroad wharf.....	7:30 a. m.
Arrive Sanford City wharf.....	8:30 a. m.
Arrive Enterprise.....	9:00 a. m.
Leave Enterprise	9:30 a. m.

RETURNING,

Leave Sanford, City wharf	2:45 p. m.
Leave Sanford, South Florida Railroad wharf, on arrival of train, (except on Sundays, when steamers will leave at 11 a. m.)....	3:30 p. m.
Leave DeLand	6:00 p. m.
Leave Astor.....	7:50 p. m.
Leave Palatka.....	12:20 a. m.
Arrive at Jacksonville	5:50 a. m.

Connecting at Palatka with Florida Southern Railway; at Astor with St. Johns and Lake Eustis Railway; at Sanford with steamers for Indian River, and with trains of the South Florida Railroad for Tampa, connecting at this point on alternate days with steamers for points on the Manatee River, and with the steamships HUTCHINSON and MORGAN, for Key West and Havana, every SATURDAY on arrival of South Florida Railroad train, arriving at Key West SUNDAYS and Havana on MONDAYS.

Returning, steamships leave Havana WEDNESDAYS, Key West THURSDAYS, arriving at Tampa FRIDAYS, and New Orleans on SUNDAYS.

To connect with steamer leaving Tampa Friday morning, passengers for New Orleans must be in Tampa Thursday night.

Steamers CHATTAHOOCHEE and JENNIE LANE, of the People's Line, and EVERGLADE, of the De Bary-Baya Merchant's Line, leave Jacksonville daily (Saturday excepted), from People's Line wharf, at 6 p. m.

Returning, leave Sanford daily (Mondays excepted) at 9 a. m.

RACING BY THE BOATS OF THIS COMPANY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

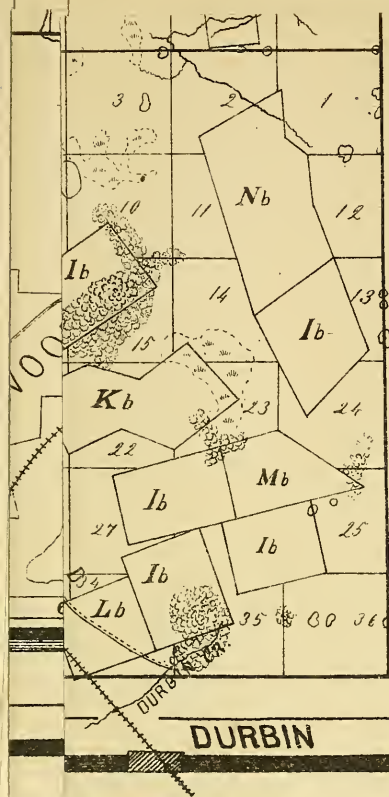
For further particulars inquire of

R. H. WHITNER, Chief Clerk,
Office, Waycross Steamboat Wharf, Jacksonville, Fla.

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ST JOHN'S CO

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FLORIDA

J. Fra^s LeBaron, C.E.,

Dep. County Surveyor.

Jacksonville, Fla.

March, 1884.

COMPILED FROM THE ORIGINAL
OFFICIAL MAPS OF THE U.S. LAND
SURVEY, IN U.S. COAST &
GEODETIC SURVEYS,
BY U.S. ENGINEERS,
VARIOUS RAILROAD
CANAL, COUNTY
ROAD, TOWN
AND PRIVATE
SURVEYS.

NASSAU COUNTY.

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Improved Lands—Consisting of every class of Orange Groves, varying in price from \$1,000 to \$75,000.

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Many of the Orange Groves we have for sale are on the market because the owners have **largely overtraded**, and are compelled to unload at least a part of their burdens. We can, therefore, offer **greater inducements** to Land or Orange Grove Buyers than can be found in the State.

Send for our Catalogues, read and see what we have for sale, then come and see us and judge for yourselves.

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